

Introductions to Narratives

There are many different ways to capture a reader’s interest.

Begin ...	Example
... with dialogue	“Where is papa going with that ax?” said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.—from <i>Charlotte’s Web</i> , E.B. White
... in the middle of the action	I dove for the ball, but a split second too late. I felt it skitter hopelessly away as I tumbled face down onto the grass.
... with a character’s reaction	Charlie opened his eyes and looked around frantically. What time was it? Where was he?
... with a dramatic image	The wind blew hard and joggled the water of the ocean, sending ripples across its surface. Then the wind pushed the edges of the ripples until they became waves, and shoved the waves around until they became billows.—from <i>Ozma of Oz</i> , L. Frank Baum
... by introducing the narrator	My given name is Thomas, though ever since the accident, most people call me “Lucky.”
... with a provocative sentence	His mother was ugly and his father was ugly, but Shrek was uglier than the two of them put together.—from <i>Shrek!</i> , William Steig
... with a generalization or broad statement	Getting older doesn’t mean getting smarter. On the morning of my birthday, I felt more confused than ever.

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